

REMARKS

Claims 1, 6-11, 14-16, 19-20 and 25-43 were pending prior to the Office Action. Claims 1-15, 17-18 and 20-43 are canceled and no claims have been added through this Reply. Therefore, claims 16 and 19 are currently pending. Claim 16 is independent. Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the rejected claims in light of the amendment and remarks presented herein, and earnestly seek timely allowance of all pending claims.

35 U.S.C. § 103 REJECTION

Claims 1, 6, 8-11, 16, 20, 25, 27-30, 33, 35, 36, and 38-41 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Blatter et al. (U.S. 6,016,348) (hereinafter "Blatter") in view of Ohishi et al. (U.S. 5,909,257) (hereinafter "Ohishi").

Claims 7, 14, 15, 19, 26, 31, 32, 34, 37, 42, and 43 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Blatter and Ohishi as applied to claims 1, 11, 16, 20, 30, 33, 35 and 41 above, and further in view of Freimann (U.S. 6,604,243) (hereinafter "Freimann").

The Board of Patent Appeals and Interference (Board) affirms the Examiner's rejection of claims 1, 6-11, 14, 15, 20, and 25-43. These claims have been canceled through this Reply.

The Board, however, reverses the Examiner's rejection of claims 16 and 19. More specifically, the Board acknowledges that the Examiner has failed to show that claims 16 and 19 are unpatentable. Accordingly, it is respectfully requested to withdraw the rejection of claims 16 and 19


In view of the above Amendment and remarks, Applicant believes the pending application is in condition for allowance.

Should there be any outstanding matters that need to be resolved in the present application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact Ali M. Imam Reg. No. 58,755 at the telephone number of the undersigned below, to conduct an interview in an effort to expedite prosecution in connection with the present application.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37.C.F.R. §§1.16 or 1.147; particularly, extension of time fees.

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Respectfully submitted,

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